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No. 9

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIREs).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 16, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALBIO SIREs to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, 45 years ago this month, the Supreme Court of the United States offered its infamous Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion on demand in this country. While many abortion activists celebrate this anniversary as a victory for so-called women's health, it represents a particularly somber occasion for those of us who advocate for life.

Since that 1973 ruling, more than 60 million unborn children in this country

have had their lives terminated by abortion. To say this is a tragedy is an understatement—60 million.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I am unapologetically pro-life. I believe that life begins at conception and that we should work harder to build a culture that values life at every stage.

While not everyone shares my convictions about life or on certain policies surrounding rights of unborn children, our pro-life momentum is still strong. This Friday, thousands of Americans will gather just outside of this building at The National Mall to participate in this year's March for Life, an annual event where the pro-life community comes together to advocate for the lives and rights of unborn children. Some of the activists gathered here on Friday will have traveled from Alabama's Second District, as far as 900 miles, to stand up for life.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to send a message to the thousands of pro-life marchers, especially those from southeast Alabama I have the privilege of representing in Congress:

Thank you. Thank you for your dedication to this most worthy cause. It is our responsibility to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. I am deeply grateful for your commitment to this incredibly important duty, and I, along with my pro-life colleagues here in Congress, stand with you.

My promise to you is that I will continue to use this seat in Congress that I have been given to be a vocal advocate for the unborn. I will continue to join you in defending the defenseless. Our momentum is strong, especially during this time each year, but our work is far from being complete. I won't stop fighting until our laws and policies protect life at every stage, and I hope you won't either.

THE TRUMP SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, as of this week, the Trump shutdown has become the longest government shutdown in American history.

It is bad enough that the President has doubled down on his demand for a senseless, expensive, and hateful border wall. It is even worse that he is holding Federal workers hostage, needlessly inflicting pain and suffering on dedicated public servants.

Last week, Federal workers began officially missing a paycheck. These 800,000 workers, both employees and subcontractors, are fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters. They have mouths to feed and mortgages to pay. They must put groceries on the table and gasoline in their car. Yet because one person in Washington decided to throw a political temper tantrum over a foolish wall, many of them are now having to cut expenses, endure sacrifices, and make tough choices in their family budgets.

The latest outrageous development occurred when, last week, Donald Trump threatened to take disaster funds away from the Army Corps of Engineers to pay for this wall. He even suggested taking funding away from Puerto Rico as the island struggles to recover from historic hurricanes, the aftermath of which cost 3,000 of our fellow citizens their lives.

Think about that. The President wants to take money away from Americans who are suffering from natural disasters in Puerto Rico, Texas, California, and elsewhere to fund a hateful wall aimed at demonizing immigrant communities. This is shameful and it is immoral.

Now we have gotten word that HUD may be using the shutdown as a predicate for reducing disaster funding to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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